

REMARKS

This Amendment, filed in reply to the Office Action dated December 22, 2005, is believed to be fully responsive to each point of rejection raised therein. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-22 remain pending the application. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8-15, 17, 18 and 21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Manni (U.S. 2002/0196414). Claims 6 and 16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Manni. Claims 3 and 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Manni in view of Koyama (U.S.P. 5,949,503). Claims 7, 17, 19, 20 and 22 have been deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

To expedite allowance of this case, Applicant hereinabove amends independent claims 1, 8 and 18 to include the features of allowable claim 22. All the remaining claims are patentable based on their dependency.

Claims 23-25 are added to describe features of the invention more particularly.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Appln. No.: 10/761,417

Attorney Docket No.: Q79515

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

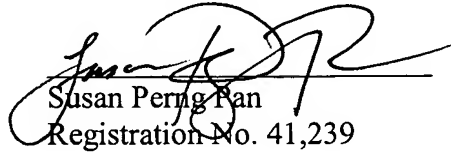
Respectfully submitted,

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